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CHARACTER DESIGNS BY
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CHAPTER 26:
THEIR EIGHT HOLY SITE WALK

YEAR-END SALE
年末セール
50%OFF

ANOTHER COLD DAY !

カタッ
KLIK KLAK

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WOW, THE YEAR'S ALMOST OVER ALREADY...

蔵
KURA

RA-RING

カラン

GOOD MOR—

GOOD MORNING, AOI-SAN.

MANA-GER...

HOLMES-SAN!

WHAT'S WRONG ?!

AH, AOI-SAN...

GOOD MORNING.

DO YOU RECALL MY FATHER'S SUDDEN DEMAND ABOUT NEW YEAR'S?

OH, THAT...

UGH...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HOLMES-SAN?

WELL, HE'S IN SOMETHING OF A QUANDARY.

PARDON?

THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT.

I- IT'S THE FIRST I'VE MENTIONED IT!

HMM

I'M THROWIN' A BIG PARTY FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE!

YANAGIHARA SHIGETOSHI'S BIRTHDAY PARTY...

I HEAR IT WAS A REAL BIG HIT.

WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?

I THOUGHT YOU PREFERRED A QUIET NEW YEAR'S RELAXING IN A HOT SPRING.

I COULD STILL RESERVE YOU A ROOM AT AN INN, IF YOU'D LIKE.

YOU MEAN THE APPRAISAL GAME?

WHERE IS THIS COMING FROM?

EXACTLY!

SO THIS IS WHY YOU WANT A NEW YEAR'S PARTY...

I'M ASKIN' UEDA SINCE HE'S ALWAYS WITH THE TIMES.

I WON'T BE COUNTIN' ON AN OLD-FASHIONED KID LIKE YOU TO PLAN THE THING.

DON'T YOU WORRY.

THEN I SUPPOSE I'LL SIMPLY BE ASSISTING—

IS THAT SO?

THAT LOUSY OLD FART MADE A FUN GAME OUT OF APPRAISING!

EVERYWHERE I GO, EVERYONE'S TALKIN' ABOUT HOW GREAT IT WAS!

You can't fool me.

SO I'M GOING TO HOST AN EVEN BIGGER AND BETTER ONE AND SHOW HIM UP!

...

NO, I'M GIVIN' YOU THE TOUGHEST JOB OF ALL.

WELL...

I HAVEN'T HEARD THE DETAILS MYSELF.

HE JUST KEEPS SAYING IT'S "A PROBLEM OF MODERATION."

I'VE NEVER SEEN HOLMES-SAN THIS DISTRAUGHT ...

JUST WHAT WAS "THE TOUGHEST JOB OF ALL"?

HMM...

HMM...

KIYOTAKA,

WHY DON'T YOU GO FOR A WALK WITH AOI-SAN?

I KNOW!

HUH?!

GLANCE チラッ

I... I WOULDN'T MIND...

I know from experience.

AT TIMES LIKE THESE, WHAT YOU NEED IS A MENTAL RESET.

BUT GOING ALONE IS NO FUN, SO TAKE AOI-SAN ALONG.

I SEE.

THEN, TO COMMEMORATE THE END OF THE YEAR, SHALL WE DO THE EIGHT HOLY SITE WALK?

YOU MEAN... WE'RE GOING TO EIGHT DIFFERENT PLACES?

THE WHAT?

THE TOP TEN
天下十品

THEY'RE KNOWN AS THE EIGHT HOLY SITES OF SHINKYO-GOKU.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE EIGHT SHRINES AND TEMPLES THAT LINE SHINKYOGOKU DORI.

SHINKYOGOKU DORI
新京極通

SEIGANJI TEMPLE
◆誓願寺
SEISHIN-IN TEMPLE
◆誠心院
TORAYAMUSHI SAIKOJI TEMPLE
◆西
TAIYAKUSHI EFUKUJI TEMPLE
◆蛸薬師堂
◆安養寺 倒
JIENZAN ANYOJI TEMPLE
寺 ZENCHOJI TEMPLE
NISHIKI-TENMANGU SHRINE
宮
染殿
SOMEDONO-IN TEMPLE

THERE ARE EIGHT SHRINES AND TEMPLES ALL ON ONE STREET?!

SHINKYOGOKU

SHINKYOGOKU DORI IS ONE STREET EAST OF SANJO DORI.

WE CAN WALK THERE FROM THE SHOP.

THE FIRST IS HERE, SEIGANJI TEMPLE.

SEIGANJI TEMPLE IS ALSO CALLED THE BIRTHPLACE OF RAKUGO.

PEOPLE COME HERE TO PRAY FOR SUCCESS IN THE PERFORMING ARTS.

CLINK

CLINK

I PASS BY HERE OFTEN,

BUT I'VE NEVER GIVEN IT A SECOND THOUGHT ...

PERFORMING ARTS, HUH?

WELL, I WOULDN'T MIND DEVELOPING A TALENT...

NOW, LET US MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ONE.

IT HAS SOME REAL HISTORY TO IT, HUH?

SECOND IS SEISHIN-IN TEMPLE.

WOW...

IZUMI SHIKIBU WAS THE FIRST HEAD PRIEST HERE.

誠心院

THEY SAY ONE SPIN WILL EARN YOU THE SAME GOOD FORTUNE AS RECITING A SUTRA.

IT'S ALSO KNOWN AS THE MANI WHEEL.

BELL WHEEL

Please turn while making your wish

YOU TURN THIS WHILE MAKING YOUR WISH?

BELL WHEEL

Please turn while making your wish

WHIR

WHIR

THEY ALSO SAY SEISHIN-IN TEMPLE OFFERS BLESSINGS IN KNOWLEDGE AND ROMANCE.

AREN'T THOSE, LIKE, POLAR OPPOSITES?

KNOWLEDGE AND ROMANCE?

PERHAPS THEY ARE.

IZUMI SHIKIBU WAS A FAMOUS POET OF THE MIDDLE HEIAN PERIOD.

SHE'S KNOWN AS ONE OF THE 36 IMMORTALS OF POETRY.

SHE WAS CONSIDERED A VERY WISE WOMAN...

BUT SHE WAS ALSO A PROLIFIC LOVER.

SHE HAD RELATIONSHIPS WITH OVER TEN MEN, AND THAT'S JUST THE ONES WE KNOW OF.

ROMANCE, HUH?

OVER TEN, BACK IN THOSE DAYS ...?

SO THE "KNOWLEDGE AND ROMANCE" THING IS AN HOMAGE TO HER? I SEE.

RING-A-LING

RING-A-LING

SHAKE

SHAKE

NO, AOI!

YOU TOLD YOURSELF YOU'D DRAW A LINE!

I HOPE... I GET TO HAVE A NICE ROMANCE SOMEDAY.

PEOPLE COME TO TORAYAKUSHI SAIKOJI TO PRAY FOR GOOD FORTUNE, DISASTER AVERSION, AND SOUND HEALTH.

AND PEOPLE SEEK TAKOYAKUSHI TEMPLE TO RECOVER FROM ILLNESS AND BANISH EVIL.

THE "TAKO" IN ITS NAME REFERENCES AN OCTOPUS A PRIEST OF THE TEMPLE BOUGHT FOR HIS SICK MOTHER.

AS A REWARD FOR HIS PIETY, IT TURNED INTO EIGHT SUTRA SCROLLS.

ANYOJI TEMPLE IS FOR SOUND HEALTH, FAMILY FORTUNE, AND THE FULFILMENT OF WISHES.

ZENCHOJI TEMPLE IS FOR SOUND HEALTH AND LONG LIFE,

AS WELL AS WISHES FOR CLEAR SKIN.

AND THIS IS PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS OF THE EIGHT HOLY SITES...

NISHIKI-TENMANGU SHRINE.

THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE...

IT HONORS SUGAWARA NO MICHIZANE, THE GOD OF ACADEMICS, WHO'S REVERED AS A PATRON OF KNOWLEDGE, SCHOLASTICS, AND BUSINESS ACUMEN.

THAT REMINDS ME. YOU'LL BE TAKING ENTRANCE EXAMS COME THE NEW YEAR, WON'T YOU?

WHAT UNIVERSITY ARE YOU AIMING FOR?

I'M THINKING OVER A LOT OF OPTIONS, BUT I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.

WELL, UM...

I SEE.

IT'S GOOD TO GIVE IT PLENTY OF THOUGHT.

KYOTO IS HOME TO MANY FINE SCHOOLS.

I know!

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED KYOTO UNIVERSITY?

YOU COULD FULFILL MY DREAM OF OFFICIALLY ENROLLING THERE...

B-BE REALISTIC!

Well...

安産
深殿院
守護

THE FINAL SITE IS SOMEDO-NO-IN,

WHERE PEOPLE COME TO PRAY FOR FERTILITY.

Guess we'd better...

WE'VE NOW VISITED ALL EIGHT SITES.

INDEED.

THERE AREN'T MANY PLACES WITH SUCH A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF HOLY SITES.

YOU REALLY CAN WALK THEM ALL, HUH?

THAT'S CERTAINLY TRUE...

HOLMES-SAN?

EACH ONE MAY BE SMALL.

BUT VISITING THEM ALL IN ORDER GIVES YOU A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISH-MENT.

THAT WAS REALLY SATISFYING.

IT'S NOT EACH INDIVIDUAL COMPO-NENT,

BUT ACHIEVING SOMETHING AT THEIR CULMINATION THAT'S TRULY IMPORTANT.

YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT.

THANK YOU, AOI-SAN.

I BELIEVE I KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW.

YOU MEAN ABOUT THE OWNER'S REQUEST?

YES.

I MAY HAVE BEEN OVER-THINKING IT.

BUT THE SUM OF THEIR PARTS.

MY FOCUS SHOULD BE ON THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE.

IT'S NOT ABOUT EVERY INDIVIDUAL ELEMENT...

UM...

JUST WHAT DID THE OWNER ASK YOU TO DO?

Is it a secret?

DO YOU LIKE TREASURE HUNTS, AOI-SAN?

TREASURE HUNTS?!

CHAPTER 26
END